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## St. Ann School

**Patron: Patrick Sackley, The Snite Foundation**

St. Ann has been a staple in the Pilsen community for more than a century, today serving 200 predominantly Hispanic students, 94 percent of whom qualify for the federal free or reduced price lunch program.

In recent years, St. Ann has taken on important partnerships to foster a bright future for its students. In partnership with the University of Notre Dame Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE), St. Ann has benefited from the time and talents of Notre Dame graduates, bringing a new vitality to the school. The school's principal, Benny Morten, is an ACE graduate himself, as are a few members of the staff, who benefit from ongoing mentoring and professional development.

In 2005, St. Ann was matched with a Patron to ensure that the support already in place was bolstered by stable funding. Since then, St. Ann has taken on several significant projects, including:

- Starting a pre-Kindergarten program from scratch, using Patron funds to defray the start-up expenses. Such programs are

important, as they fill an important need for parents, and draw families to the school.

- Implementing marketing activities to help raise funds and increase the visibility of the school, including hiring a marketing and development director to implement the marketing plans devised by the principal and the Patrons Advisory Board.
- Reconfiguring the school's entryway to be more inviting to families and much safer for students and staff.
- Maintenance, such as repainting many parts of the school.

St. Ann's Patron, Patrick Sackley, notes that it's been an exciting few years since he became involved: "We have a dynamic principal and we now have a long-term vision for the school, including capital improvement," he said. "What's so rewarding for me is that the kids are getting a positive experience from being in school. It is a shelter for them away from an often tough environment."«



**"We've developed a personal relationship with the [Big Shoulders Fund] Patrons so they feel committed to the mission of the school, in addition to being committed financially. The Patrons' support is greatly appreciated and provides the resources we need to move forward in education and letting our students grow in a safe, secure, Catholic learning environment."**

**- Benny Morten, Principal, St. Ann**